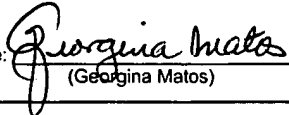


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV537016183US, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: January 7, 2005

Signature:

  
(Georgina Matos)

Docket No.: 495812001900  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Lisa DHAR et al.

Application No.: 10/043,939

Confirmation No.: 9372

Filed: January 11, 2002

Art Unit: 1774

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
MULTILAYER OPTICAL ARTICLES

Examiner: T. Dicus

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests entry on this Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application. This amendment and Request for Continued Examination is in response to the Advisory Action (paper 20041129) mailed December 15, 2004 for which a response to the Final Office Action (paper 20040902) dated September 7, 2004 was due on December 7, 2004. A one month extension of time is requested to extend the time for response from December 7, 2004 to January 7, 2005. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.